

October 7, 2004

**Influenza Vaccine Shortage Prompts District Health
To Revise Plans for Mass Vaccination Clinic Exercise**

Due to redirection of influenza vaccine to only those people at high-risk of complications from the flu, South Central District Health has decided not to offer any flu vaccine at its mass vaccination clinic exercise planned for Saturday, Oct. 23. The District had originally planned to offer a free influenza shot to everyone who participates, but has decided against that because of the limited vaccine supply.

However, community members are still needed to help the agency test its emergency plan. Anyone who would like to participate in the clinic, which occurs at the College of Southern Idaho's Shields Building from 3 to 4 p.m., may call their local District Health office to sign up. Those attending the clinic must be age 18 or older and should be able to wait in line for one hour while working their way through the clinic process.

In case of a large scale disease outbreak, the District needs to be able to immunize roughly 200 people per hour in order to immunize every man, woman, and child in the eight county area over the course of several days.

"The best way to test our mass vaccination clinic plan is to have 200 people help us," said Tom Machala, Communicable Disease Prevention Director for South Central District Health. "We know that the free influenza shot would have been an incentive to people to help us test our plan, and I hope that we can continue to rely on the public to spend an hour helping us even without the free vaccination."

For more information about the mass vaccination clinic or to register, contact your local South Central District Health office:

Bellevue	117 East Ash St.	788-4335
Burley	2311 Parke Ave., Unit 4	678-8221
Gooding	145 7 th Ave. E.	934-4477
Jerome	951 East Ave. H	324-8838
Rupert	1218 9 th St., Ste. 15	436-7185
Twin Falls	1020 Washington St. N.	734-5900

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